BARNARD CASTLE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1973

BARNARD CASTLE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1973

Barnard Castle
Rural District Council

Health Department,
43 Galgate,
Barnard Castle.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Gore-Booth and Gentlemen,

It has been suggested that an Annual Report for 1973 should be provided now although some information is not available until later in the year.

The District continues to be a healthy place in which to live and there is no reason to suspect any unusual Statistical changes during 1973.

I would again thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued advice and support, and the Staff of the Health Department for their loyal co-operation.

It has been a pleasure to serve you all since 1961 and I am sorry my duty must end with Re-organisation.

Your obedient servant,

A. S. M. WILSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):

A. S. M. WILSON, M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

ROBERT DAWSON, M.A., M.B., CH.B., M.D.

Senior Public Health Officer:

JOHN GEORGE MIDDLETON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H

Public Health Inspector:

GEOFFREY NUTTER, M.A.P.H.I.

Administrative Assistant:

JOE HODGSON.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (Acreage)—110,118.

Population (Registrar General's Estimated Figure mid-year 1973)—15,270.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£3,766·772.

Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1973—£964,336.

The industries are agriculture, coal mining and stone quarrying.

Climatic Conditions.

Table showing Annual Rainfall in Inches during 1973 compiled from figures received from:

	West Moor Riggs Forest-in-Teesdale	Raby Casttle Gardens Staindrop	Bowes Museum Barnard Castle
Latitude	54° 39′	54° 35′	54° 32′
Month:			
January	2.23	1.55	1.90
February	1.79	0.96	1.18
March	1.46	0.52	0.62
April	4.01	3.29	3.22
May	2.87	3.39	3.19
June	1.60	1.89	1.96
July	4.31	3.83	4.19
August	4.28	*1.22	3.31
September	2.10	1.70	1.81
October	2.73	1.72	1.53
November	2.35	1.08	1.04
December	4.27	1.59	1.85
Total 1973	34.00	22.74	25.80
Total 1972	42.98	25.09	27.83
Total 1971	35.72	25.76	25.21
Total 1970	47.96	29.86	32.94

*Raby Castle Gardens. August readings—part month only.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1972

Not yet available.

General Provision of Health Services in the District.

A. HOSPITALS:—

There are no hospitals in the district. Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of the hospitals controlled by the South-West Durham Hospital Management Committee.

B. LABORATORIES:—

Public Health Laboratories are available at Northallerton and Newcastle-on-Tyne. Facilities are also provided at Bishop Auckland General Hospital, Pathological Department.

C. COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES.

In his quarterly reports to the Area Health Sub-Committee, the County Medical Officer includes most of the following information about Health Services in the District.

1. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Barnard Castle urban and rural districts are served by two ambulance depots, three ambulances and six driver-attendants.

2. HOME NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

The District Nurses and Midwives practice domiciliary midwifery and carry out general home nursing as required. They are now aligned to general medical practices instead of working widely throughout the District.

3. HEALTH VISITING.

The number of Health Visitors in the area varied during 1973 as they were aligned to general practices rather than strictly geographically distributed. Their routine duties include visits to mothers and children, tuberculosis patients, the mentally subnormal, school children and the aged.

4. Domestic Help Service.

During 1973 assistance on account of old age, home confinement or illness was provided in 122 homes.

5. Child Welfare Centres.

Sessions were held at Butterknowle, Cockfield, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Staindrop, Gainford, Etherley, and at Evenwood.

6. Chiropody.

During 1973 sessions were held at Cockfield, Etherley, Evenwood, Hamsterley and Ingleton. 290 elderly and handicapped persons attended these centres and 1,377 treatments were given.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation; Poliomyelitis, Smallpox, Measles and Rubella Vaccination.

Protection against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox, measles and rubella is available from family doctors and child welfare centres.

Polio protection is available up to the age of 40 and to certain priority groups over that age. The vaccine may be had either by injection or by mouth.

During 1973 the immunisation of school entrants was continued. This work was carried out within the schools and is reflected in the general immunisation statistics for the area.

The following records have been received for work carried out in the area during 1973.

	Total under 16 years	
	Primary	*Boosters*
Poliomyelitis	147	149
Diphtheria	144	140
Whooping Cough	144	10
Tetanus	161	188
Smallpox	7	6
Measles	125	–
Rubella	58	–

A fair proportion of young children are still wholly unprotected on entry to school despite the steady flow of information, exhortation and encouragement channelled to their homes by the County Council from birth onwards.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

During 1973 protection against tuberculosis continued to be offered in accordance with County Council policy to all school children aged 11 years and over.

A skin test is carried out first to see whether or not a child has developed a degree of natural immunity. Where this indicates the need for protection, vaccination is then carried out.

Of the 115 children tested during 1973, 89 were vaccinated.

Children who are absent or not vaccinated for such medical reasons as intercurrent infection, skin conditions, etc., are usually taken up at subsequent sessions.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during recent years.

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Scarlet Fever	7	25	15	2	1	1
Measles	59	9	261	41	63	18
Whooping Cough	12	–	4	3	2	–
Diphtheria	–	–	–	–	–	–
Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–	–	–	–	–
Opthalmia Neonatorum ...	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dysentery	1	–	2	3	8	–
Typhoid Fever	–	–	–	–	–	–
Paratyphoid Fevers	–	–	–	–	–	–
Food Poisoning	1	2	–	–	2	–
Infective Jaundice	–	5	3	2	–	–
Anthrax	–	–	1	–	–	–
Leptospirosis	–	–	1	–	–	–
Acute Meningitis	–	–	–	–	–	1

Tuberculosis.

There was one case of tuberculosis notified during the year, that of a male aged 46.

LOCAL WELFARE SERVICES.

Meals on Wheels Service.

We continue to be indebted to the W.R.V.S. for running the above service. Meals are taken out from seven centres as in previous years and the cost to the elderly or handicapped recipient remains at five new pence. For this they receive a main course and sweet both satisfactory in amount, quality and variety and certainly of high nutritional value for the cost. Also important to the old people is the visit itself by helpful people who inform us promptly if there is anything amiss.

The service is intended primarily to help those who are bedfast, housebound, or so handicapped that they are unable to prepare and cook meals satisfactorily for themselves.

SECTION II.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
TO THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I have pleasure in presenting to you an abridged report upon the activities of the Public Health Inspector's Department for the year 1973.

Considerable time has been diverted to matters arising from the proposed re-organisation of Local Government that has caused this report to be confined to statistical data.

J. G. MIDDLETON,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLIES.

GENERAL.

Regular samples of water were taken during the year from the several public water supplies in the area. All supplies are chlorinated and there was no evidence of bacteriological pollution.

Houses supplied by Public Undertakings.

The following table shows the number of houses supplied with water from public undertakings:—

Parish	Present Estimated Population	No. of Houses	Supply in House	Stand Pipe
Bolam	102	34	33	–
Cleatlam	82	29	24	1
Cockfield ...	2121	696	691	–
Eggleston ...	352	189	141	–
Forest and Frith	257	80	24	2
Gainford ...	1130	458	456	–
Hamsterley ...	343	148	110	2
Hilton	79	16	14	–
Headlam ...	63	21	20	–
Evenwood ...	3158	1139	1126	2
Etherley	1801	708	667	16
Ingleton	336	128	120	1
Langleydale ...	117	22	16	1
Langton	60	12	11	1
Lynesack ...	1465	549	547	2
Marwood ...	508	152	144	1
Morton Tinmouth	16	4	4	1
Middleton-in-Teesdale	1539	623	608	6
Newbiggin ...	206	77	54	5
Raby and Keverstone	166	38	14	–
Staindrop ...	1252	515	515	–
Streatlam and Stainton	575	198	198	–
South Bedburn ...	226	64	–	–
Wackerfield ...	88	26	26	–
Westwick ...	96	30	29	–
Whorlton ...	197	80	71	–
Winston	423	154	140	–
Woodland ...	270	108	105	–

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Meat Inspection Regulations.

Two slaughterhouses were licensed and in regular use during the year. All carcases were inspected in accordance with the Regulations and revenue for the year from meat inspection fees amounted to £103-23.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations.

There are no liquid egg pasteurisation process plants in the area. No liquid egg samples have been taken.

Ice Cream.

There are no ice cream manufacturing establishments in the area. The bulk of ice cream sold is pre-wrapped and supplied by firms of national repute. 80 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream.

MILK SUPPLIES.

A total of 130 milk samples were taken by the County Health Inspectors, three of which failed the methylene blue test.

Animals killed and found to be affected with disease.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed (if known)	387	11	7	1083	468	nil
Number Inspected	387	11	7	1083	468	nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	1	nil	nil	2	nil	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	1	nil	21	14	nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.9	0.9	nil	2.1	2.9	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	—
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	nil	nil	nil	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	nil	nil	nil	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	nil	nil	nil	—	—	—

POULTRY INSPECTION.

One poultry dressing establishment continued to operate with a weekly average throughput of 2,000 broiler chickens and turkeys. Frequent visits are made for inspection purposes.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960.

The following is a list of the several different types of food premises operating in the area during the year under review:–

Grocers	69
Butchers	6
Fried Fish & Chip Shops	8
Confectioners ...	6
Greengrocers ...	4
Cafes and Restaurants	8
Snack Bars	3
Licensed premises ...	41
Workmen's Clubs ...	4
Other Clubs	2

HOUSING.

The following tabulated statement submitted to the County Medical Officer of Health gives the position regarding progress in building new houses, and in dealing with unfit properties:—

	With State Aid	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	–	–	–
(b) By any other Housing Authority	–	–	–
(c) By private persons	–	44	44
Total ...	0	44	44

(A) Formal Action.

1973

Houses demolished:

36-37-38-39-40 Gordon Lane, Ramshaw ...	5
3 Alpine Terrace, Evenwood	1
10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17 High Lands	8
21-22 The Edge, Woodland	2
	16

HOUSES CLOSED BUT NOT DEMOLISHED:

Burton House Cottage (informal).
24 Low Etherley. ...
1 Horsemarket, Middleton-in-Teesdale.
10 Swan Street, Evenwood.
The Haven, Middleton-in-Teesdale.
Manse House, Middleton-in-Teesdale (informal).
5 Dent Bank, Middleton-in-Teesdale.

Total ... 7

DEMOLITION POSTPONED (i.e. occupied):

2-3-4 Quarry Heads, Etherley	3
257-259 Toft Hill	2
East Park, Witton Park	3
3 Gordon Lane, Evenwood	1
1-2 Accrington Terrace, Evenwood	2
25 Copeland Row, Evenwood	1
Anthony's House, Harwood	1
Green View, Hamsterley	1
1 Wood Row, Butterknowle	1
7-8 Quarry Lane, Butterknowle	2
5 Bridge Street, Middleton-in-Teesdale ...	1
Bungalow, Cleatlam Lane, Staindrop ...	1
	17

(B) RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Houses made fit during the year by procedure under the Housing Acts or Public Health Acts:

a. Result of informal action ... 11
b. By owners as a result of statutory action ... 2
c. By local authority in default ... –

HOUSING ACTS 1949/1969. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

	No. of separate houses Discretionary Grant	Standard Grant
Applications submitted	179	16
Applications rejected	–	–
Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme ...	1779	290
Total number of grants paid since inception of scheme	1514	284

RODENT CONTROL.

I append below a copy of the annual report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1973.

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district ...	6450	773
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notifications	348	16
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	120	16
(ii) Mice	13	–
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	56	Nil
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	38	Nil
(ii) Mice	Nil	Nil

Refuse Tips and Sewer Control.

In addition intensive treatment of all sewers was carried out in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food recommendations. Regular baiting was carried out at the Council's refuse tips and sewage disposal works, in addition to infestations at domestic and trade premises.

Clean Air Act 1957.

The deposit gauge remained on site in the field to the north of Copeland Row, Evenwood, to monitor the nuisance from the fine coal dust from the Randolph Coke and Chemical Co. Works. The average deposit per month was 12.22 tons per square mile. No smoke control areas have been made by the Council.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The estimated position at the end of the year was as follows:—

Closets converted to water closets	22
Total number of water closets in district ...	6128
Total number of ash closets and similar type ...	220

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

The following table extracted from the annual return submitted to the Ministry of Labour shows the position during the year. There were no accidents reported.

Class of premise registered.	Total No. of new registrations.	Total No. of premises.	Registered premises inspected.
Offices	0	7	6
Retail shops	0	22	22
Wholesale shops and warehouses	0	2	2
Catering Establishments, etc. ...	0	7	7
Fuel storage depots	0	0	0
Totals	0	38	37

The total number of visits made to registered premises for all purposes amounted to 145.

The total number of employees in all groups of registered premises at the end of the year was: Males 44, Females 69.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

A total of 26 licences were in operation during the year relating to nine residential sites (controlling nine caravans) and 17 for holiday purposes, controlling 565 holiday caravans with additional facilities for 41 tourers.

The following table gives a summary of these privately owned sites:

Details of Licence.	No. of Sites.	Residential Caravans.	Holiday Caravans.
(a) Sites for 1 to 2 caravans ...	14	9	8
(b) Sites for 3 caravans and over ...	12	0	606

No. of contraventions (breach of licence conditions) ...	30
Number remedied informally	22
Number of prosecutions	2
Number of convictions	2

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Towards the end of 1973 the Council took delivery of a new Shelvoke & Drewry Refuse Collector. The vehicle incorporates an improved type of rear loading hopper with a more efficient compaction system. Its capacity of 60 cubic yards of refuse is the largest in the Council's fleet. Two outstanding features in the vehicle's design are its speed in loading and its ability to take bulky material, including furniture and other similar household articles.

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	–	–	–	–
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	41	68	–	–
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises	3	6	–	–
Total	44	74	–	–

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Sanitary Conveniences–(a) Insufficient ...	–	–	–	–	–
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	–	–	–
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	–	–	–	–	–
(d) Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	–	–	–

OUTWORKERS.

No outworkers are registered.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS' ACT 1964.

A total of 10 dealers have been registered by the Council under the above Act.